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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Mylavarapu VENKATRAMESH *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/548,256

Filed: April 12, 2000

For: Transgenic Plants Containing
Altered Levels of Sterol Compounds
and Tocopherols

Art Unit: 1638

Examiner: A. Nelson

Atty. Docket: 16516.152

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Response to Restriction Requirement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2001, Paper No. 13, Applicants submit the following response.

Remarks

In the Office Action dated December 5, 2001, the Examiner required restriction to one of 61 groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, and provisionally elect the claims of Group II, claims 1-13, 17-19, 34-42, 46-48, and 70, drawn to a steroid reductase for further prosecution.

Applicants submit that the complete examination of the application would be handled most expeditiously by treating all of the pending claims as a single entity. As Section 803 of the MPEP directs, "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without